



18-12-2020

## In This Newsletter



"What else do you think?" asked  
the boy  
"I think," said the horse "you are  
doing better than you think."

- End of term
- Reminder for January
- Coronavirus update
- RSE policy consultation
- Winter Grant
- Operation Christmas
- Information given to the school

- Term dates

Bring on 2021!



What a year! I believe it would be fair to say that this was not the year we were expecting. However, we have managed to get through the autumn term with minimal disruption to teaching and learning. This would not be possible if the school community did not work as a team. We all have a part to play in keeping our children in school and preventing infections from spiraling out of control. The restrictions we face at the moment may be the compromises we have to make to ensure that our more vulnerable loved ones receive the virus and do not succumb to the virus

Hillingdon will be increasing the testing sites available to families. Lateral flow tests are available for all LBH workers and secondary school students can be tested via the link found in the coronavirus update.

I am sure all of our celebrations will be shorter and smaller than in previous years. At Ryefield, our seasonal assemblies were much smaller affairs. The children in the EYFS and KS1 normally get their annual taste of show business and performing in front of a live audience, however current measures mean that no audiences are allowed for class assemblies. Undeterred, the school has made recordings of their children via Google Classroom. From Nursery to Year 2, pupils will be able to login via their emoji passwords to watch their performance. We realise that this is no substitute for a live audience, but I am sure your child will enjoy sharing their brilliant performances with you.

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*On behalf of the school, I would like to wish you all a restful break.*

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## January Reminder



Doors have been decorated, the trees have been hung and the school is heading towards the end of term. I would firstly like to extend my thanks and gratitude towards the school community. You have all played a key part in ensuring that we have managed to hold the line against large outbreaks of the corona virus. Families have been vigilant in ensuring they monitor their children for signs and symptoms and this has really helped to keep the school running over a busy term, often blighted with coughs, sneezes and snotty noses.

It was heartening to see that the government's vaccination programme has begun to roll out, however we must remain vigilant in both the short and long term. All existing measures detailed in the Covid-19 section of the school website will continue to be implemented and - as part of our risk management - we will refine our policy and practices. The amended documents will be uploaded at the beginning of the new calendar year.

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- *We would like to remind parents that the deadline for children sharing Christmas cards with their 'bubble' is Tuesday 15th December (to be given out on Friday). This allows us to quarantine them for 72 hours.*
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### *School Uniform*

Parents are reminded that from 05 January students are expected to wear their **full** school uniform. The uniform is as follows:

- Boys and girls wear:
- A white polo shirt
- School jumper/cardigan
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- White socks
- Black formal school shoes (no trainers) In the summer, girls can wear a light summer dress.

In Year 5 & 6 pupils must wear a white shirt with a school tie. Ties can be bought on Parent Pay for £4.10 each, every Friday a member of staff will deliver the ties to the classrooms.

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*The only exception to this rule will be on the days that your child has P.E. They will be required to come to school in clothing that is suitable for P.E., ideally trainers, tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt and a hoodie or sweater, as your child may well be enjoying outdoor PE in the bracing weather associated with January and February.*

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In the final week of term, we will be sending your child's pencil case home. This will allow you to top up the necessary materials, which include the following:

- HB pencils,
- writing pen (friction pens are best),
- an eraser,
- a sharpener,
- highlighter,
- glue stick,
- either colouring pencils or crayola twistable.

We request no that no felt tips are to be brought to school. Currently, the school does not plan to reintroduce large bulky bags. We therefore expect children to continue to use a clear, sturdy, zippable plastic wallet ([click here to see an example](#)) with your child's name written on it.

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### *After school clubs*

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Booking is now live via Parent Pay, with some clubs close to selling out.

**Monday:**

- Multi-Skills Sport (Yr1 & Yr2)
- Spy Club (Yr2 & Yr3)

**Tuesday**

- Balance-ability (Level 1 Bikes for R & Yr1)
- Dance (Yr5 & Yr6)

**Wednesday**

- Multi-sports (Yr 3 & Yr4)
- DebateMate (Yr5 & Yr6)

**Thursday**

- Football (Yr5 & Yr6)

**Friday**

- Gymnastics (Yr3 & Yr4)

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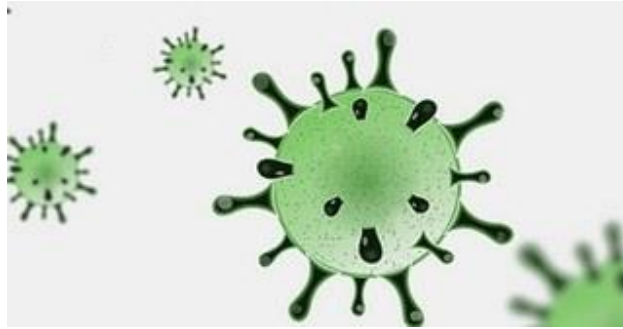
*The school reopens to students on Tuesday 5th January.*

*Ryefield Rascals (before and after school club) reopens on Tuesday 5th January with an earlier start time of 07:20.*

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## Coronavirus Update



With rising case rates in London, in-person symptomatic testing channels will accept asymptomatic residents who wish to get tested.

Based on the current picture, this additional testing is focused on secondary school aged children and young people, and their families / household contacts. Currently, this testing will be available up to and beyond the end of term and we will let you know if this changes.

### How to book a test

Go to: [Get a test](#)

Select the following answers:

- No - essential worker
- No - symptoms
- No - pilot project
- My local council has asked me to get a test and booking is essential

Please could all schools share the information above with their families to ensure that this offer is accessible to secondary school pupils and their contacts.

### Track and Trace

The school has been advised to continue to support track and trace. The guidance states the following:

*“Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.”*

Therefore, if your child was in school on Friday 18 December, developed symptoms and received a positive test then you would need to contact the school. The time frame for contacting the school around developing symptoms will be from Friday 18 December to Monday 21 December. If your child develops symptoms after 21 December you would not need to contact the school as they will be off-site for more than 48 hours.

Parents **must** notify the school on the following email: [ryefield.enquiries@ryefieldprimary.org.uk](mailto:ryefield.enquiries@ryefieldprimary.org.uk)

The out of hours email will be monitored between 10-11 am.

Should your child develop symptoms after Monday 21st December, then you will need to contact NHS Track and Trace.

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*In your email to the school, please include:*

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- *your child's name*
  - *the date when symptoms first appeared*
  - *the date of the confirmed COVID-19 test result*
  - *their last day in school*
- 

## RSE policy consultation



At Ryefield Primary School, it is our aim to, when teaching relationships and sex education (RSE), promote spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development to all our pupils. This will help to prepare them for the opportunities, experiences and responsibilities of adult life.

It is important that, as they grow up, children come to an understanding of their own bodies, instincts and feelings. In this way, they will be prepared for the opportunities, joys and responsibilities of permanent relationships.

All Sex and Relationships Education in the school is viewed as part of the school's total commitment to develop the whole child. We are committed to celebrating rich relationships, growth and development within caring families and developing a society of responsible individuals who value others as themselves. The school is sensitive to the fact that children's environments may differ but seeks to place the RSE programme within the context of a secure and loving environment where love and commitment are promoted. **The Governors believe it to be an important part of children's education.**



The aims of RSE at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

This [link](#) to the draft document sets out Ryefield Primary School's policy to the teaching of RSE. This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils, governors and parents. School leaders and governors would be interested in receiving any feedback on the policy. Please email your comments to [ryefield.enquiries@ryefieldprimary.org.uk](mailto:ryefield.enquiries@ryefieldprimary.org.uk) under the heading **RSE policy**.

Towards the end of January the school will also be hosting a webinar for parents on RSE in primary schools. This will be delivered by a professional from [Coram Life Education](#).

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[Click here to view the draft policy](#)

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## Hillingdon COVID Winter Grant



# HILLINGDON

## LONDON

The government has awarded money to Hillingdon Council as part of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children affected by the pandemic during the winter period.

The funding will be used to help those struggling to meet the cost of food and utility bills. As school holidays can be a particularly challenging time for families, anyone with children eligible for benefits-related free school meals will receive a COVID-19 winter payment. Hillingdon council are using the October 2020 school census data to identify eligible families.

In most cases the council already have the contact details / email address for eligible families and therefore will be making payments direct to families in the form of supermarket vouchers (for the two-week school break). Hillingdon are also inviting families to apply for a payment towards the cost of their utility bills. They are working to make the payments for food by Monday 21 December (most payments will be made this week).

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*For families without access to the internet, they can contact the council to go through the form questions verbally (contact details below).*

*Scheme details and the form can be accessed via - [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/winter-grant](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/winter-grant)*

*Schools are welcome to share this scheme with their families. If eligible families do not have access to the internet, they are able to phone the council:*

- *Contact Centre tel.: 01895 558200 from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday*
  - *If families are experiencing issues with the form link or have any other queries they should email - [wintergrant@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:wintergrant@hillington.gov.uk)*
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## Operation Christmas



The school would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. All of which will go towards the creation of hampers and food parcels, these will then be handed out to targeted families and vulnerable members of the school community. The staff at Ryefield have also raised just over £500 and this will be used to add further Christmas cheer to this year's hamper initiative, as well as future ones.

Information given to the school

# NEWS



## PERSEVERANCE SCOUT GROUP



Beavers  
Wednesday  
6:15pm – 7:30pm



Cubs  
Monday  
6:45pm – 8:15pm



Scouts  
Wednesday  
7:45pm – 9pm

**118 Sweetcroft Lane, Hillingdon, UB10 9LQ.**

Charity No: 1020129



## Student activities



# Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletter

Edition 6: December 2020

## Trust-wide initiative

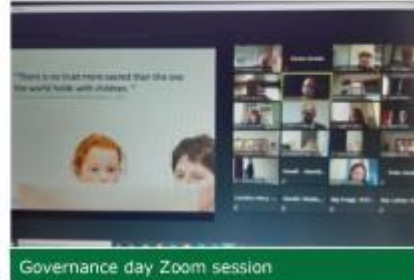
A Trust-wide fundraising initiative, led by Ruislip High School in the summer term 2020, was launched to raise money for a local hospice, Michael Sobell, with a target of £1000. The total amount was raised by September 2020. A letter was recently sent to the Trust from Cath Cole, Interim Director of Fundraising and Communication, acknowledging her gratitude regarding the money raised for the hospice.

*'I can't tell you how wonderful it is to receive a donation of this size, particularly at this incredibly difficult time for fundraising. It always amazes me that, despite all the challenges people are facing, they still take the time and effort to support charity as you have all done.'*

## Governance Day

The first inaugural Trust-wide governance day was held on Wednesday 18th November 2020. There were 34 participants, including governors from all Trust schools as well as Vanguard Learning Trust members and trustees. The theme for the day was outstanding, inclusive education and it involved two keynote speakers from the Confederation of School Trusts, Leora Cruddas and Steve Rollett, CEO and deputy CEO respectively. The afternoon was a school-based session for governors reflecting on their school's development plan.

Feedback received by participants was exceedingly positive, in particular the time to reflect collectively on the core purpose of all schools in terms of



Governance day Zoom session



## Letter of thanks from Michael Sobell Hospice

the advancement of education for the public purpose.

*'Such a useful day, a real eye-opener, and a great choice of speakers. Thank you to the team for pulling this together. If I take anything away it will be our role as governors to be the pillars of education advancement and the insurgent mission!! Thank you again and Kasserian Ingera!'*

Gurjit Kharbanda, Governor, Ryefield

*'The governance day was a triumph for all those involved. The presentations were powerful, thought provoking and very informative. Governors and trustees were certainly reminded about their responsibilities, particularly in terms of strategic direction and providing support and challenge to staff and schools. It was useful in the afternoon to meet as a LGB to discuss various aspects of the SDP. Credit must be given to the Trust team for organising and facilitating the day which is not always easy on Zoom! Thank you.'*

Andy Lunnon, Governor, Ruislip High 1

## Student awards

Each school in the Trust selected students, one from each key stage, except for Field End's who are both in KS2, to be a recipient based on their support for one of the Trust's values: 1. Life-long learning

1. Pride
2. Belonging
3. Respect, responsibility and relationships
4. Tolerance and humility

The recipients received a certificate and a Trust pin badge, and a postcard was sent home to their parents. Each school's recipients for the autumn term are as follows:

**Field End:** Isaac and Arsh, KS2

**Hermitage:** Dolly, EYFS, Ruby, KS1, Nawal, KS2

**Ruislip High:** Tommy, KS3, Sophie, KS4, Louisa,  
KS5

**Ryefield:** Leonardo, EYFS, Rayan, KS1, Lexie, KS2

**Vyners:** Ella, KS3, Wemi, KS4, Kathryn, KS5

## Sustainability project

Vanguard Learning Trust has launched a Trust-wide initiative, inviting students to take part in a unique opportunity to secure funds for a sustainability project.

The project will be composed of two stages. The first stage will be a school-level competition in order to select the team of students that will represent them at the Trust-wide stage.

The second stage will be a Trust-wide dragons' den experience for students to present their ideas to a panel in order to secure funds for their projects. Teams will need to demonstrate how their projects will reduce the school's and/or local community's carbon footprint in the long term; how the project will be sustainable; and what the funds will specifically be used for. The dragons' den experience will take place in spring term 2021. The Trust would like to thank Lord Randall of Uxbridge for his support with this project.

A Trust-wide poetry competition will also be launched





in the spring term 2021.

## Travel plan transforms Vyners

A new service introduced by the London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH), in partnership with transport experts, has meant that students who were previously unable to do so can now travel to and from school independently. Sean, Year 8 at Vyners, was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of four and has scoliosis, which requires regular surgical interventions. LBH



Sean now enjoys independent travel to school

identified the need for one-to-one travel training which involved learning how to make a journey from home to school independently.

As a result of this training, Sean is now able to travel unaccompanied to school.

student's life

School improvement work

## NQT and NQT+1

Across the Trust there are 26 teachers who are either newly qualified teachers (NQT) or in their second year of teaching (NQT+1). Due to the pandemic and lockdown period in the last academic year, the NQTs missed a substantial part of their training in school, with many of them not being able to complete the majority of their second teaching placements. The NQT+1 teachers had to adapt to online teaching and learning during their probationary year, which affected an important period of development as part of their new teaching career.

Whilst schools have their own development programmes for NQTs and recently qualified teachers, it was seen as vital that these teachers were given the opportunity to join a wider network of support across the Trust. Four professional development sessions during the year have been planned to help the teachers to cope with the extra demands of this year and to discuss issues and strategies that would

**We can make a difference!**

**Vanguard Learning Trust** invites students across the Trust to take part in a unique opportunity to secure funds for a project that reduces the carbon footprint of their school and/or local community.

**Internal school competition**  
Schools will decide how to run the competition in order to select the team of students that will represent them at the Trust-wide stage.

**Trust-wide sustainability project**  
Each school in the Trust will have a team of up to six students to take part in a dragons' den experience to present their idea in order to be awarded funds to ensure their project is able to progress. The team will need to present to the 'dragons' how their project will reduce the school's and/or local community's carbon footprint in the long term; how the project will be sustainable; and what the funds will specifically be used for. The amount of money each team can bid for is £500, £1000, £1500 and £2000.

**Project ideas can include:**

- Reduction in waste in particular food and single-use plastic
- Recycling and the use of compost
- Using renewable energy
- Growing organic food and sustainable gardening
- Transportation: more students walking and cycling to school

**Flyer for the sustainability project**

Session one took place on Wednesday 11th November 2020 on life-work balance and wellbeing, led by Alex Pape, School Improvement Lead from Vyners School. The session explored the subject of balancing life and work as a teacher at the start of their career, and Alex provided strategies to help manage time and stress. The group also made use of the interactive tool 'Jamboard' which was new to many of the group; this was a useful tool for collaboration during the session which many of the participants enjoyed using.

### Let's Think activity

MFL teacher/NQT, Ruislip High

## Let's Think delegate



Vanguard Learning Trust and Let's Think Forum are working in partnership to offer a renowned professional development programme. The aim is to establish the Trust as a hub for the Let's Think programmes and a centre of good practice.

Sixteen teachers from across the Trust are taking part in this exciting project. The courses consist of five twilight sessions spread across the academic year. The subject courses are led by experienced Let's Think tutors: English by Michael Walsh, mathematics by Lynda Maple and science by Martina Lecky. Feedback gathered from the first two sessions has been overwhelmingly positive.

*'I feel my understanding is growing and now in preparation for further teaching, I need to focus on the questioning that will help facilitate the children's ability to dig deeper and increase their stamina to explore further.'*

Let's Think delegate

*'I really enjoyed the session, particularly the insights into how to help students challenge their peers in group discussions and how this can in turn aid their own critical evaluation.'*

### **School improvement work**

## **SSAT (schools, students and teachers network) leadership courses**

SSAT is a national organisation that supports schools, students and teachers through their membership networks and professional development programmes. They help schools to stay informed and connected as well as recognising and celebrating the successes of students, teachers, and schools, sharing practice across the SSAT network.

Schools within the Trust have signed up to three leadership courses this year: Leaders for the Future, Middle Leadership and Stepping Up to Senior Leadership. The programmes cater for teachers and leaders at all levels and are facilitated and led by experienced senior leaders within the Trust who have all undertaken the necessary training to deliver these courses as part of the Trust's professional their individual schools. Over time sharing expertise across the Trust will only serve to improve all of the schools and benefit students as much as possible.

Delegates have already identified aspects of the course that they are particularly looking forward to and the facilitators are looking forward to working with them.

*'I am looking forward to improving my knowledge of areas I am less experienced in and getting advice on implementing change over time and measuring impact in schools.'*

development provision. The aim in exploring these opportunities for staff in the Trust is to provide the forum for all to grow and develop, not just as classroom practitioners, but also as leaders within



**Liz Strong**

**School Improvement Lead, Ryefield Primary School**

Stepping Up to Senior Leadership delegate, Ruislip High School

**Why did you decide you wanted to be one of the Trust's School Improvement Leads for this academic year?**



In my current role as Deputy Headteacher at Ryefield and in previous roles, I have always been passionate about improving teaching and learning. By effectively leading teams of people, we can achieve the best for

our students; this can be realised by fulfilling the potential of teachers as outstanding practitioners as well as identifying whole-school priorities and making plans to accomplish them.

The school improvement role provides me with the opportunity to diversify and work across the Trust with colleagues from different key stages and subjects, gaining and sharing expertise with others in different settings. I think it is a fantastic experience that might not be so readily available to staff in schools working alone.

**You are currently leading on the arrangement for the Let's Think hub. What does this entail and what has been the impact of the first two sessions?**

Building on the work done last year, the Let's Think Hub aims to raise students' ability to think, reason and process information in English, mathematics and science. Over the course of the year, teachers from across the Trust will have the opportunity to deliver lessons to put the methodology into practice. My role is to oversee the administration, so that the three facilitators can focus on the content and delivery of the course. So far, teachers have been able to engage with the research and they will now transfer this knowledge by experimenting with lessons in their classrooms and, in future, measure the impact this approach has on deepening learners' thinking skills.

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*Over the course of the year, teachers from across the Trust will have the opportunity to deliver lessons to put the methodology into practice.*

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**You will be leading and co-facilitating the SSAT future leaders' course. What has this involved and how will the three leadership courses benefit all schools in the Trust?**

I am excited about being trained to deliver the Leaders for the Future course by SSAT. The materials and content are really engaging and informative and I think the course is going to be enjoyable for the delegates. Obviously, this year delivering the course virtually is far from ideal, but we have some ideas on how to make it interactive. In preparation for the launch on Wednesday 9th December 2020, I spent some time reading research into leadership theories and approaches and have particularly enjoyed Steve Munby's book: *Imperfect Leadership*. The ability to be able to offer these SSAT courses within the Trust, delivered by colleagues, is beneficial to staff and I am certain it will provide quality professional development for teachers throughout their careers.

## Term Dates



### Term Dates

#### Autumn term 2020

End of term: Friday 18 December

**EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE: Nursery = 11.30, EYFS = 13:15, KS1 = 13:15, KS2 = 13:30**

#### Spring term 2021

INSET: Monday 4 January (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

Term starts: Tuesday 5 January

Half term: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February

Term ends: Wednesday 31 March

**Summer term 2021**

Term starts: Monday 19 April

Half term: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June

INSET: FRIDAY 2 July (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

Term ends: Wednesday 21 July

Staff Prep Days: Thursday and Friday 22 + 23 July (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)